

I and countless other citizens have become increasingly aware and alarmed at how the media, which is granted license to "serve the public interest" is doing just the opposite. A recent example is the Sinclair Broadcasting Group, which announced plans to preempt regular programming to show a documentary, with known factual errors, just days before a national election. They have called it "news," when, indeed, it is nothing more than partisan politics.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.